



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/067,951	02/05/2002	Byoung Kwon Ahn	CU-2765 VE	6671

26530 7590 09/10/2003

LADAS & PARRY
224 SOUTH MICHIGAN AVENUE, SUITE 1200
CHICAGO, IL 60604

EXAMINER

DOAN, THERESA T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2814

DATE MAILED: 09/10/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/067,951

Applicant(s)

AHN ET AL.

Examiner

Theresa T Doan

Art Unit

2814

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 July 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

2. Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

The limitation of “forming a second insulating layer having a second opening exposing the conductive plug on the first insulating layer in the same chamber”, as recited in claim 1, lines 5-6, is not supported in the original disclosure.

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The limitation of “forming a second insulating layer having a second opening exposing the conductive plug on the first insulating layer in the same chamber”, as

Art Unit: 2814

recited in claim 1, lines 5-6 is unclear because the claim language does not specify which elements are in the same chamber.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Prior Art (APA) previously used.

Regarding claims 1-4 and 8, APA teaches in figures 1A-1I, a method for fabricating a capacitor comprising the steps of:

forming a first insulating layer 104 having a first opening 106 exposing a predetermined region on a substrate 100;

forming a conductive plug 108 filled within the first opening;

forming a second insulating layer 121 having a second opening 122 exposing the conductive plug on the first insulating layer;

forming a ruthenium (Ru) conductive layer (140,142) covering the second opening by sequentially performing PVD and CVD processes on the second insulating layer 121;

exposing the second insulating layer 121 by performing etch back on the conductive layer 142;

forming a ruthenium (Ru) storage node electrode 143 of the capacitor by removing the second insulating layer 121;

forming a TiON dielectric layer 126 to cover the storage node electrode; and forming a ruthenium (Ru) plate electrode 130.

APA does not teach a step of forming a conductive layer covering the second opening by sequentially performing PECVD and LPCVD processes on the second insulating layer. However, in the background of the invention teaches a ruthenium (Ru) plate electrode 130 that formed by both PECVD and LPCVD processes (in specification page 5, lines 7-9) in order to reduce the process step using both PECVD and LPCVD processes in the same chamber. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify a ruthenium (Ru) conductive layer by sequentially performing PECVD and LPCVD processes in the APA's method for the reason as shown.

7. Claims 5-7 and 9-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Prior Art (APA) in view of Kweon et al. (6,391,660) as previously cited.

APA teaches substantially the entire claimed structure, as applied to claim 1 above, except for the conditions of first and second of thermal treatments of the conductive layer.

Kweon et al. teach the conditions of thermal treatment of a lower electrode 28 and a dielectric layer 29 such as the temperature at 400-700°C for a period ranging from 10 minutes to 5 hours in an atmosphere containing O₂, N₂ ... e.g. (column 3, lines 15-49)

Art Unit: 2814

in order to apply the process to a particular application. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the method of APA as taught by Kweon et al., in order to apply the process to a particular application.

Response to Arguments

Applicant argues that APA fails to show that the PECVD and LPCVD processes are sequentially performed in the same chamber. The argument is not persuasive because these features are not recited in the rejected claim. Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

Art Unit: 2814


the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Theresa T Doan whose telephone number is (703) 305-2366. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 8:00AM - 6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, WAEL FAHMY can be reached on (703) 308-4918. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7724 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

TD
September 4, 2003.


PHAT X. CAO
PRIMARY EXAMINER